



# The Souvenir Card JOURNAL

FIRST QUARTER 2021

VOLUME 41

NUMBER 1

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUVENIR CARD COLLECTORS SOCIETY



FSO-1885B



FB-1905D



Three forerunners from Presidential Inaugural Balls are shown here, courtesy of Larry Leyser. The two small souvenir dance programs (covers shown folded open), from 1905 and 1909, have not previously been presented in the Journal.

FB-1909C





# The Souvenir Card JOURNAL

First Quarter 2021, Volume 41, Number 1

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NUMISMATIC  
ASSOCIATION  
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**On the cover:** 1850s era corner ornaments and banknote "counters" marking the 40th year of the SCCS.

**Back cover:** The first issue of the Souvenir Card Journal.

## CONTENTS

|                                           | Author                       | Page |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------|
| Inaugural Ball Programs .....             | Larry Leyser...              | C2   |
| President's Message .....                 | Stephen Patrick.....         | 2    |
| From the Interim Editor .....             | Greg Alexander.....          | 3    |
| Treasurer's Report for 2020 .....         | William Kriebel.....         | 4    |
| FPS-1950A Postal Union Congress Book ..   | Curt Radford, MD.....        | 5    |
| FIBEX Commemorative Sheets .....          | Roland Rollins.....          | 9    |
| More ABNC Demo Stamps .....               | Don Epp & Roland Rollins.... | 14   |
| 40th Anniversary Card Project .....       | Greg Alexander.....          | 20   |
| Bureau Bio: Seymour Bernett .....         | Howard Bernett.....          | 21   |
| Additional Cards from Mexico .....        | Greg Alexander.....          | 22   |
| Volunteer Assistance, Please? .....       | Greg Alexander.....          | 27   |
| Member's Exchange .....                   |                              | 28   |
| Back Issue Souvenir Cards Available ..... |                              | 28   |
| BEP Employee Magazine Discovery .....     | Greg Alexander...            | C3   |



Submission deadlines for ads, articles, comments, etc. are: **Dec. 1** (First Quarter issue); **March 1** (Second Quarter); **June 1** (Third Quarter); and **Sept. 1** (Fourth Quarter). Your cooperation in meeting these goals is appreciated.

**Membership information** and Dues (\$25/yr.; \$45/2yrs.; \$65/3 yrs.); **please inquire with Greg Alexander (SCCS1981@yahoo.com) regarding renewals.** Requests for back issues and information concerning this Journal, including submission of articles and advertising inquiries, should be addressed to the **Interim Editor.** Thanks!

**Visit the SCCS website at [www.souvenircards.org](http://www.souvenircards.org)**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

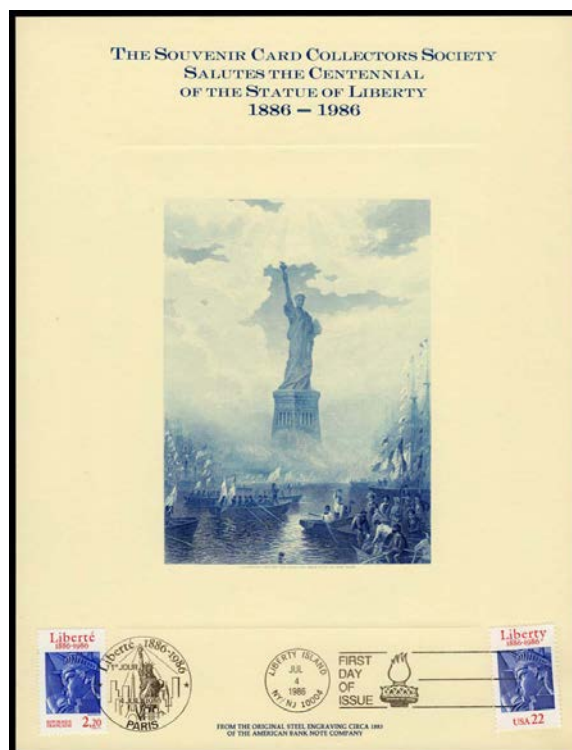
A. Stephen Patrick

Happy New Year 2021! We look with hope for a healthier and happier year than the COVID-19 of the past. A vaccine gives us hope for protection enough to renew in-person meetings. But more than that, Happy 40th Anniversary to the Souvenir Card Collectors Society! In 1981, a small band led by **Dr. Curt Radford** stepped up to create a dedicated group of collectors to identify, categorize, and publicize this new collectible. Only five years later membership had zoomed to over 1,400 members!

By 1981 the BEP program had produced 50 cards, the Postal Service 35 cards, the American Bank Note Co. 20 cards, the ASDA 45 cards, the UN 20 cards, and the SCCS had found the key to the door of hundreds of archival forerunners, the F cards. We are still discovering and cataloguing new finds of BEP and Union intaglio printings for political, governmental, and commemorative occasions that called for the best in finely engraved prints. Five years later in 1986 the SCCS was adding new members at the rate of about 30 per quarter. In another three years, the BEP and ABN would begin issuing special, limited run cards, pulled from a spider press and available only at shows.

There is too much history to recount in such a short space, but we wish to celebrate our 40 years with a special SCCS annual card planned by our Vice President **Greg Alexander**. If all goes well, we will hold our annual meeting in Chicago in August and present this card.

For the first time, the American Philatelic Society and the American Numismatic Association will hold their annual conventions in adjacent spaces at roughly the



*N-1, the first official SCCS souvenir card, issued on the Society's 5th anniversary.*

same time, though not jointly. If all goes well, the week of August 10 to 15 will see hundreds of collectors descend on the Donald Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois. The SCCS expects to have a booth at one or both venues if we find enough volunteers. Start making your plans now to join this awesome celebration.

I would like to give a shout out to member **Hans Weber**, in California, who has been compiling a comprehensive listing for American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA) cards for our website Image Gallery. He has scanned hundreds of cards from his collection that will bring this

category up to date. This will be one of the largest card categories (300+) and represents a significant undertaking. We continue working to fill holes in our galleries at [souvenircards.org](http://souvenircards.org). Our website answers many questions for those wanting to know what they have and see what is out there to collect.

Thanks to **Greg Alexander** for producing this Journal, his fourth as stand-in editor. **Bill Kriebel** is still making the best of things in assisted living until Covid goes away. This year has given me time to reorganize my card collection using categories and numbers found on our website. Plate printer **Mike Bean** has produced more cards than he can remember, and we are slowly finding images for all those M, MB, N, NA, Q, W, and CS cards that he has printed.

That's the news for now. Keep warm, keep healthy, keep safe, and I hope to see you in Chicago in August.



Happy birthday to us! As most of you know, 2021 marks the 40th year that the Souvenir Card Collectors Society has been serving our hobby. I've been a member for 39 of those years, since I bought my first souvenir card back in high school. We'd like to make this a special year and hope to reconnect with our members as the pandemic slows, and travel and shows start to open up again. Hope you are all able to get your COVID-19 vaccinations soon!

One 40th anniversary project in the works is a special annual card. I've been conferring with **Mike Bean** and others to make this a reality. You'll find more details about this project on page 16.

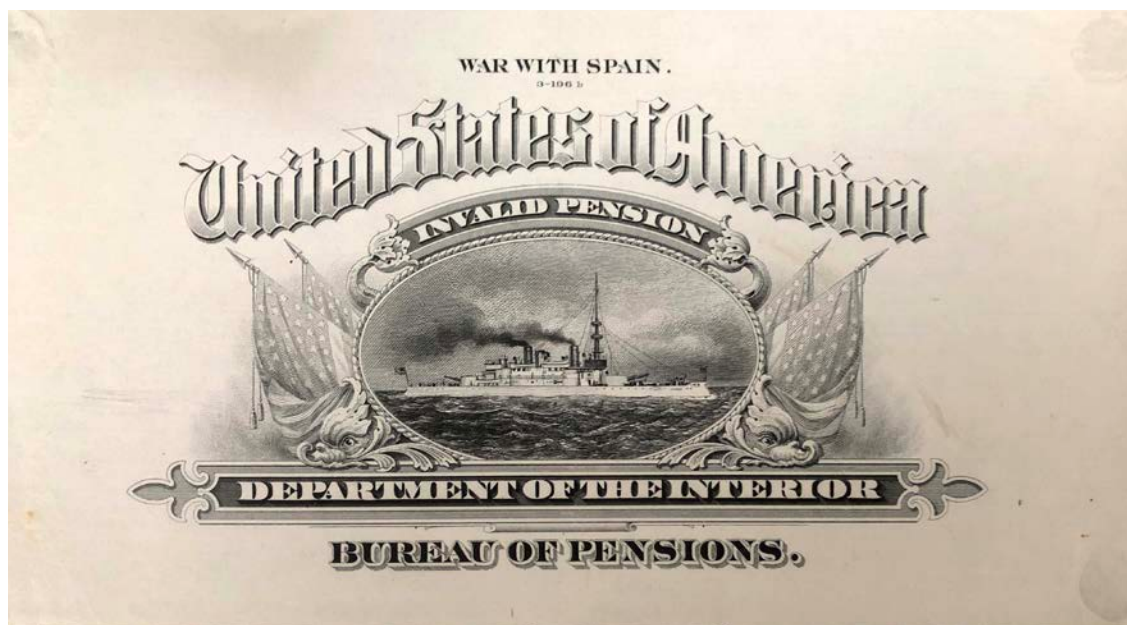
I will continue as Interim Editor of the Journal, until **Bill Kriebel** is back in a position where he is able and willing to take on some of his previous SCCS duties. He remains the club's Treasurer and was able to do a wrap up of the Society's finances for the past year. Many members extend their good wishes for his improving health and greater mobility.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome back our President Emeritus **Curt Radford, MD**, SCCS member #1. A busy medical practice has limited Curt's hobby activities in recent decades, but he's maintained friendships with a number of members, and his recent retirement should allow him to re-engage with the Society. He's already submitted more than

one article for publication in the Journal; you'll find his story on a rare forerunner folder on page 5.

We got quite a few positive comments on the battleship article I presented in the last issue, along with an example of another BEP dreadnought engraving. **Art Benjamin** provided scans of a proof of the header for a Spanish-American War pension given to wounded soldiers (below). This battleship appears to be an Indiana-class warship, like the USS Oregon. The Bureau also used a Lexington-class cruiser on a Navy Honorable Discharge certificate from the 1920s, but that one was printed lithographically, from a photo.

The membership has been positive in its response to keeping the Journal in PDF form, which was brought on by necessity during 2Q 2020, when SCJ production fell into my lap. Since that time, I've found a local printer to produce physical copies of the Journal for the small number of members who prefer this. Putting out a digital publication saves the club a considerable sum (see our Treasurer's Report) so we plan to continue this method, but I understand that some members like having a print copy. If you would prefer to get both the b/w print edition and the full color digital version, please let me know by email at [SCCS1981@yahoo.com](mailto:SCCS1981@yahoo.com).



## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2020

William Kriebel

### INFLOWS

|                                                           |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Dues rec'd through 12/31/20<br>(includes donations) ..... | 2,251.00 |
| Auction:.....                                             | 87.10    |
| Sales:.....                                               | 47.50    |
| Total: .....                                              | 2,385.60 |

### OUTFLOWS

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Office: .....          | 35.37    |
| SCJ: 40:1 (print)..... | 1,056.58 |
| 40:2 (digital).....    | 401.17   |
| 40:3 .....             | 366.56   |
| 40:4 .....             | 364.70   |
| Annual Card: .....     | 540.68   |
| Total: .....           | 2,765.06 |

### ASSETS (as of 1/10/21)

|                                        |          |
|----------------------------------------|----------|
| SCCS Acct. @ Citizens Bank: .....      | 7,669.03 |
| Reserves held for SCJ production:..... | 2,097.37 |
| Total: .....                           | 9,766.40 |

23 SCCS members remain unpaid as of 1/20/21.

**2021 DUES ARE NOW NEEDED.**

As for the Treasurer himself, I am hanging in there! I remain in the assisted living wing of Atria Center City, a retirement community in downtown Philadelphia. COVID-19 has kept (hopefully) everyone inside or, if out of their rooms, wearing a mask and maintaining a safe distance from others. Philadelphia's "rules" change periodically, and I haven't been outside the building other than for medical appointments, so it's not a problem for me! The facility I'm in has additional conditions.

I am not in any pain, other than trying to walk. Apparently, my fall has highlighted the arthritis in my knees and/or some nerves, so my movement is confined to my small wheelchair. Lots of TV, which is ironic because previously I limited it to certain sports games. I also have an exercise regimen to maintain.

Obviously, I miss my wife and family. She has been staying with our daughter's family near Boston and we do "get together" periodically via Zoom. I also miss my collection and working on the SCJ and hope, someday, all will be back to normal!



*[Editor's Note: Most members probably think of the Philatelic Truck cards when FPS catalog numbers are brought up. But there are a few rarely-seen U.S. Postal Service forerunner cards that are also included in the SCCS numbering system. Although known to the SCCS, the following set has never been featured on the pages of the Journal.]*

During October 1950, the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain held their Sixth Congress in Madrid, Spain. To commemorate this occasion, the U.S. Post Office Dept. issued a gold embossed, hard bound souvenir booklet tied together with red, white, and blue

*continued on page 8*



Figure 1. The Congress was also celebrated by the issuance of a Spanish 1 peseta airmail stamp, Scott #C131.



Figure 2. The blue canvas cover of the booklet with the US Seal embossed in gold foil.



Figure 3. Interior pages are all bound together with a tied red, white, and blue ribbon.

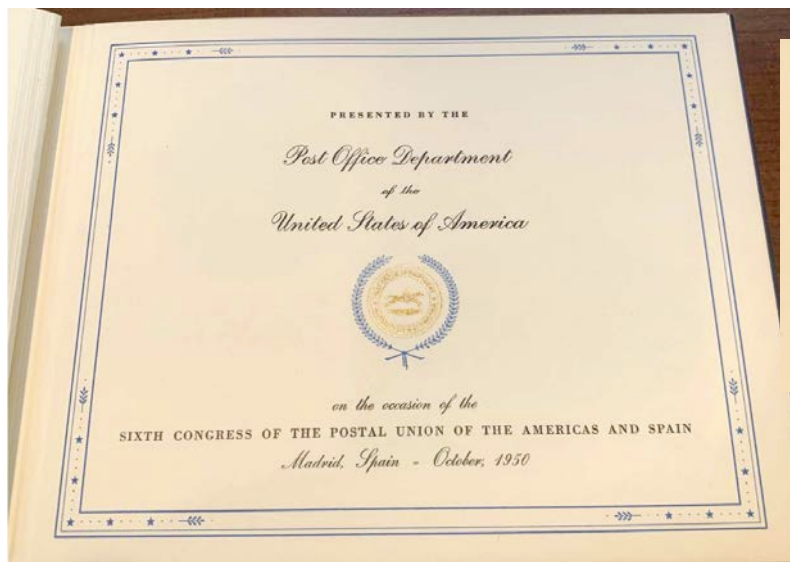


Figure 4. The title page featuring the USPOD logo and text regarding the Congress.

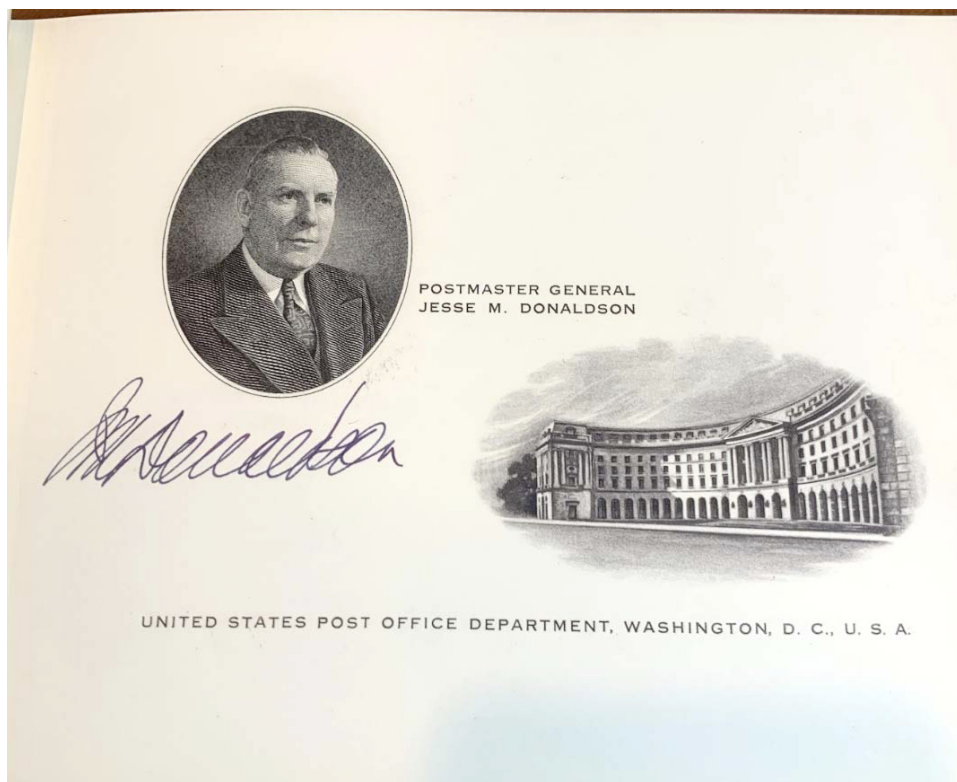


Figure 5. BEP card with an engraved portrait of the Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson and an offset vignette of the USPOD building in Washington, DC. The card is signed in blue ink by Donaldson. On the reverse of this card is the notation in pencil: "File Copy PUAS Album 1950."

Figure 6. The booklet contains six pages featuring actual mint postage stamps from 1949 and 1950, all mounted loose in transparent sleeves. Shown here are Scott # 803, 804, 806, 989, 909, and 991. Other interspersed pages showcase airmail stamps (see next page); commemoratives 981, 983, 994, 995, and 996; 959, 985, 987, 993, and 995; 807, 984, 982, 986, and 988; and Presidential definitives 808, 810, 811, 812, and 813.



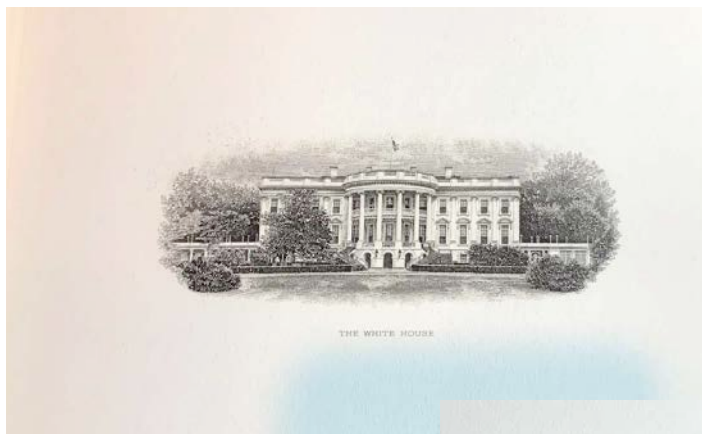


Figure 7. BEP vignette of the White House, used on the back of the \$50 Federal Reserve Note, series 1950 and later, and on PV-311.

Figure 8. BEP vignette of the U.S. Capitol. This view from the northwest does not appear on any of Bureau's Portrait-Vignette cards or souvenir cards.



Figure 9. Airmail stamps, Scott # C40-C45

ribbon. It contains 15 pages or plates which include a title page, two blank pages, a Postmaster card, six different BEP Washington scene vignette cards and six pages featuring recently issued mint U.S. postage stamps. The booklet itself measures 8 3/8" x 6 1/8" and the cards each measure 8 1/8" x 5 7/8". The left-hand side of each card is corrugated to allow the pages to be turned more easily.

This is a very rare souvenir booklet that I knew of and included when writing the 1989 SCCS numbering system catalog. Years later, I bought one from a dealer in Spain. It is estimated that fewer than 300 were produced – perhaps an exact number resides in the BEP production records for 1950. The booklets were prepared by the Bureau and given out to the

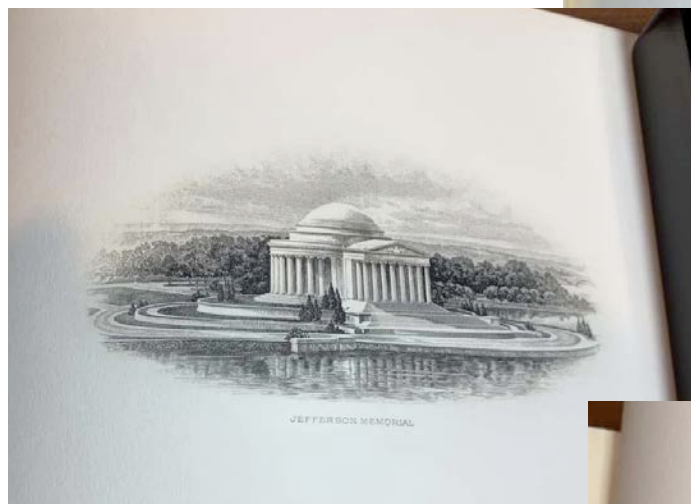
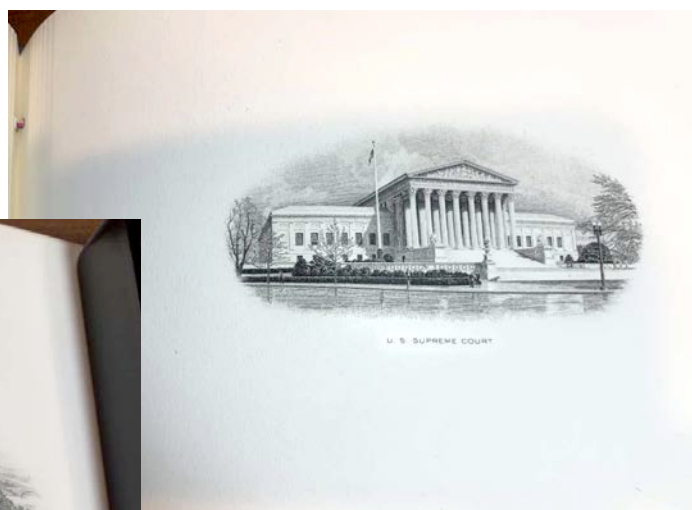
delegates from 25 different countries who attended the Congress.

While this booklet was prepared by the BEP, it was issued by the USPOD. Hence, the booklet and its bound cards should be considered forerunners of the modern-day USPS cards. As such, I listed it in the SCCS numbering system as FPS-1950A.

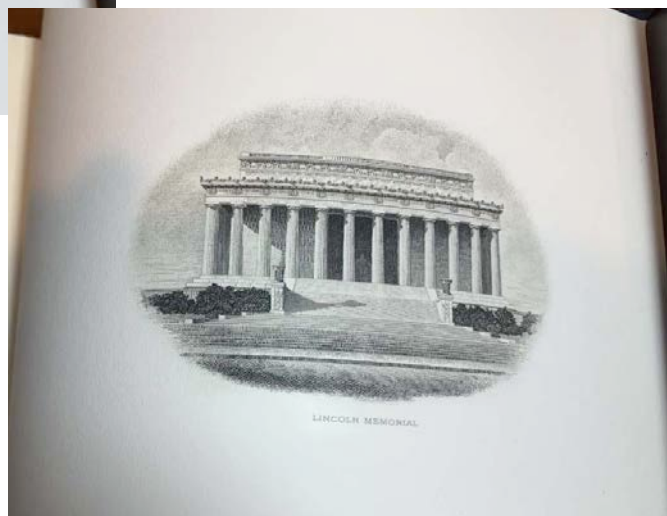
I regret to say, this is the first piece I've written for the SCJ in 30 years. I retired from a busy Internal Medicine practice last summer, and now have the time to submit more articles. I still collect the Award Diplomas from various Expositions held around the world from the 1850s to the 1930s. They will be the subject of a future article.



*Figure 9. BEP vignette of the U.S. Supreme Court Building (same vignette found on PV-306).*



*Figure 10. BEP vignette of the Jefferson Memorial (same vignette found on PV-315).*



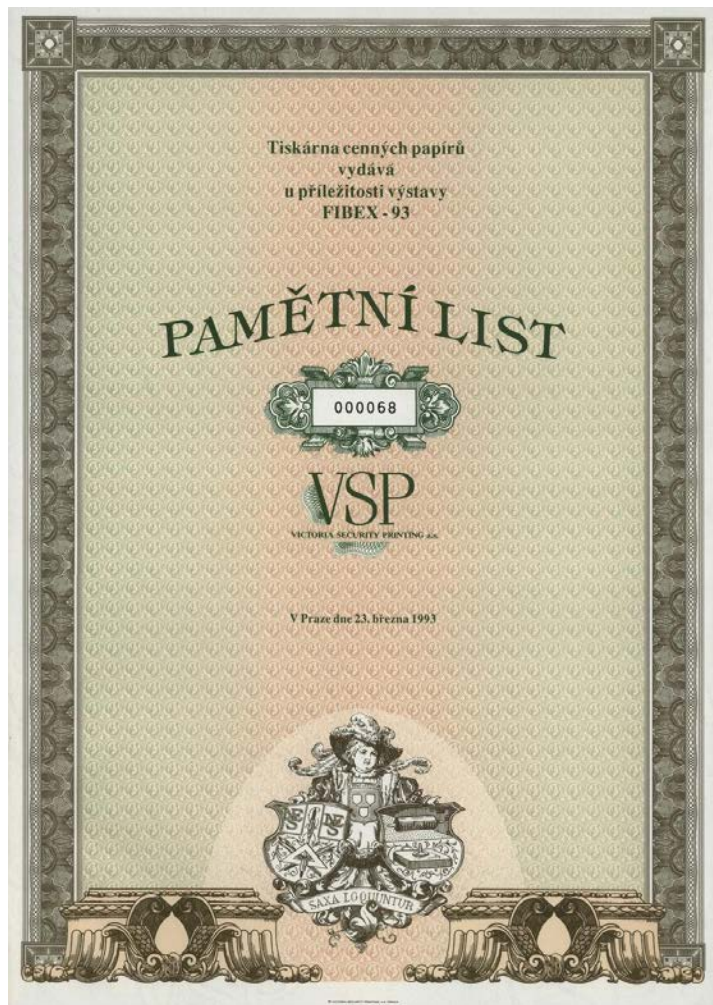
*Figure 11. BEP vignette of the Lincoln Memorial, used on the back of small size \$5 silver certificates, Federal Reserve Notes, and found on PV-303.*

In January 1928, the newly created National Bank of Czechoslovakia started production in its new banknote printing works. In 1953, this function was transferred to the STÁTNÍ TISKÁRNA CENIN or State Printer of Czechoslovakia — STC, for short. They produce all the banknotes for the now Czech Republic, as well as test notes, advertising sheets, security information sheets, and other high security products.

FIBEX is an acronym for the International Finance, Investment, and Banking Fair held at the Brno Exhibition Center in the Moravia district of the Czech Republic from 1992 to 1999. It appears the Czech National Bank was a sponsor or, at least, main vendor at the fair. Among other things, the fair was an opportunity for security printers to show off their currency production capabilities, often incorporating the latest

security features. They printed elaborate examples in the form of souvenir sheets, which were distributed at the conference. These were titled PAMĚTNÍ LIST, translating to Commemorative Sheet.

Victoria Security Printing (VSP), founded in 1991, was the first private printing house in the Czech Republic. They produced the first known souvenir for the 1993 FIBEX event, as well as sheets for the 1994 and 1997 fairs. STC followed suit, printing FIBEX souvenir sheets from 1994 through 1998, mostly serial numbered. Two commemorative sheets for the 1996 FIBEX were produced, the second possibly for BVV (Brnenské Veletřhy and Výstavy), the organizer of all FIBEX events. Though the serial numbers for these commemorative sheets are six or seven digits, I have not observed the first four digits to be anything but zeros, inferring low production numbers.

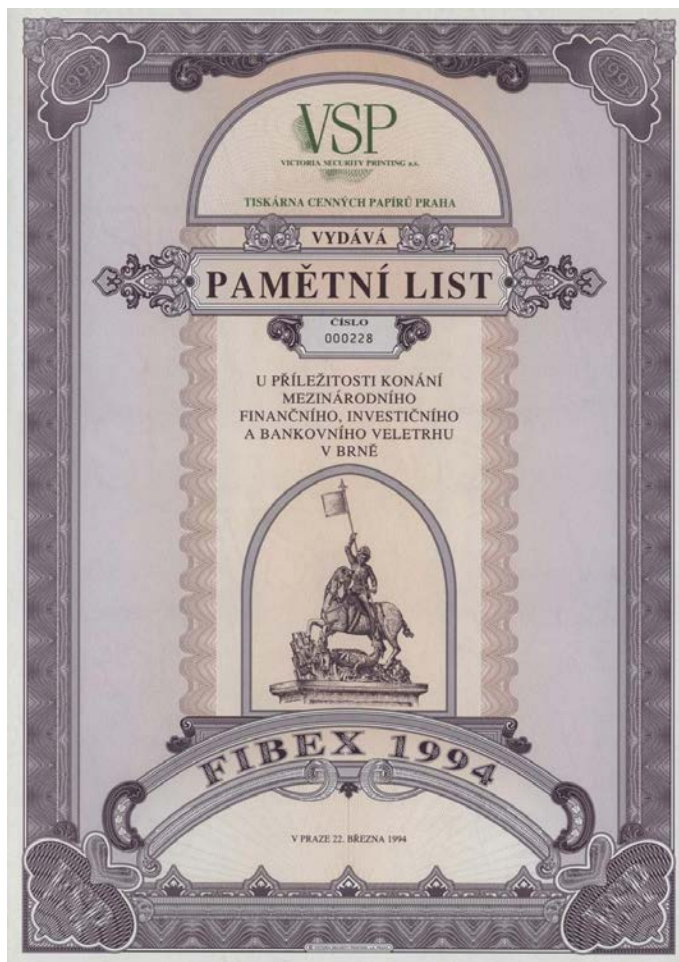


Whether these souvenirs were given to all attendees and/or exhibitors is not known. There were 382 exhibitors, from 10 countries, at the 1994 event. Unfortunately, I have yet to find any attendance figures for these events. In 2000, when most of the large banks failed to register as exhibitors, the decision to cancel FIBEX was made at the last moment. It never resumed.

As one would suspect, leftover sheets sometimes found their way to the secondary collector market. Many of the FIBEX souvenir sheets are beautiful examples of the currency engraver's art and hopefully SCCS members will enjoy a peak at them here.

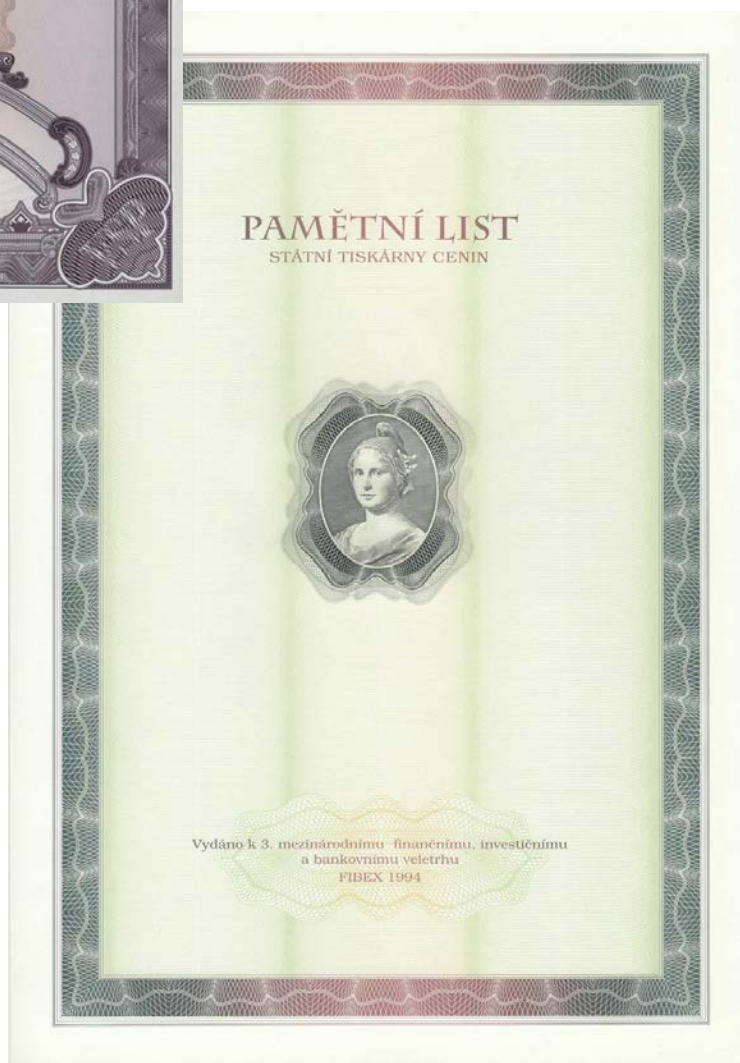


*1993 souvenir sheet by VSP, with watermarked security paper (above). Gravure printing - engraving, offset printing.*



*VSP, 1994 - Security paper with watermark. Gravure printing - engraving, offset printing*

*STC, 1994 - Plain paper without watermark. Gravure printing - engraving, offset printing. The image of a Woman with Phrygian Cap is from the 100 Korun of 1945 (P67a).*

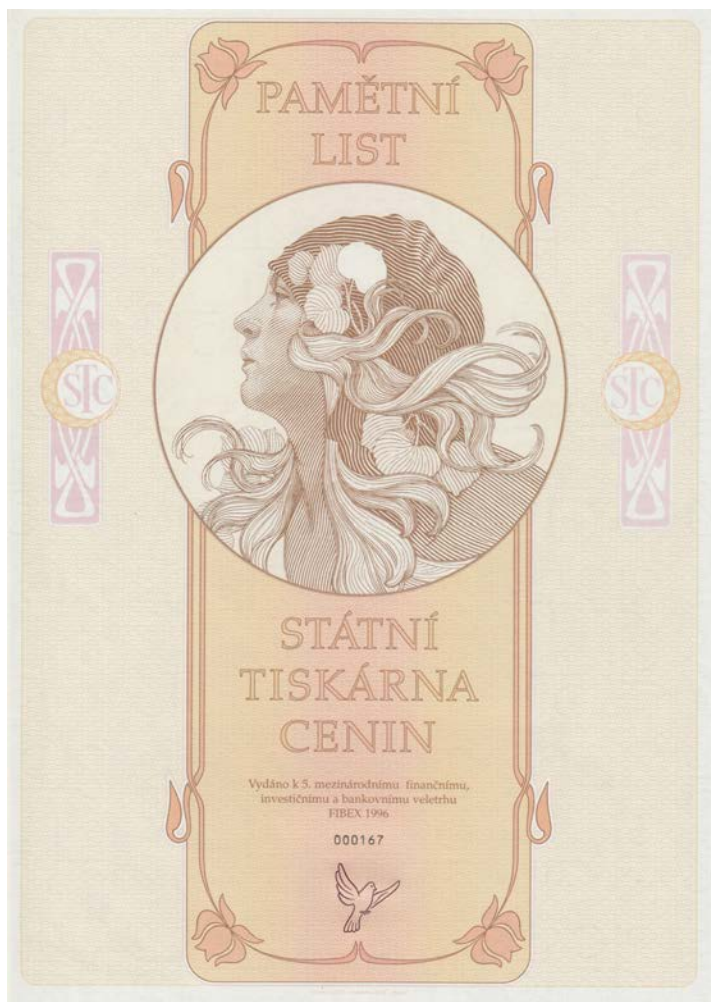


*STC, 1995 - Security paper with watermark. Gravure printing - engraving, offset printing.*



*BVV, 1996 - Plain paper with no watermark.*



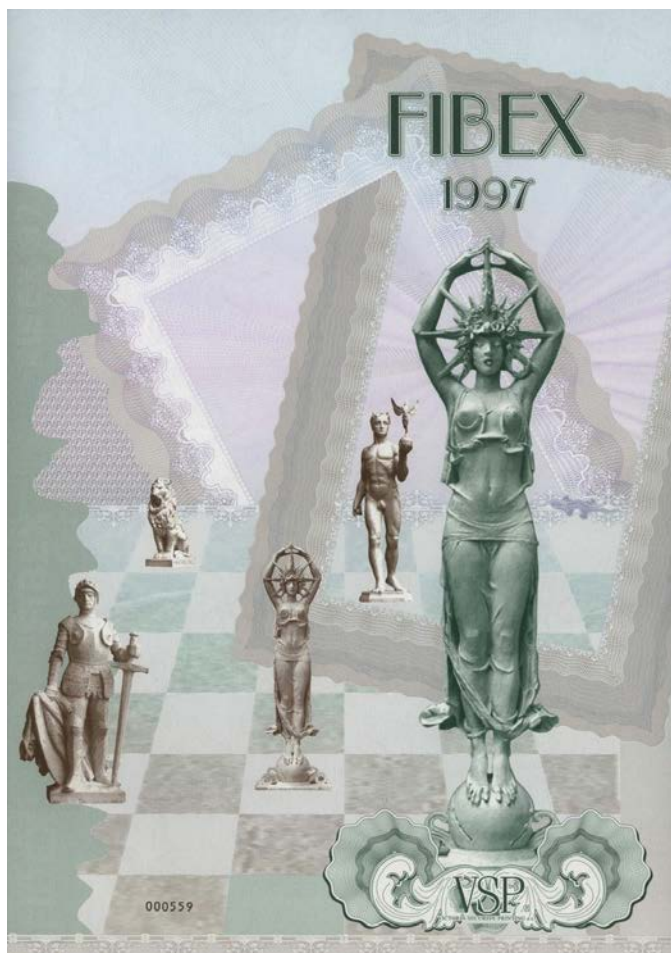


*STC, 1996 - Security paper with watermark. Gravure printing - engraving (dove), offset printing. The image is one of the many ladies painted by Czech artist Alphonse Mucha. The vignette is found on the 50 Korun of 1929 (P22a)*

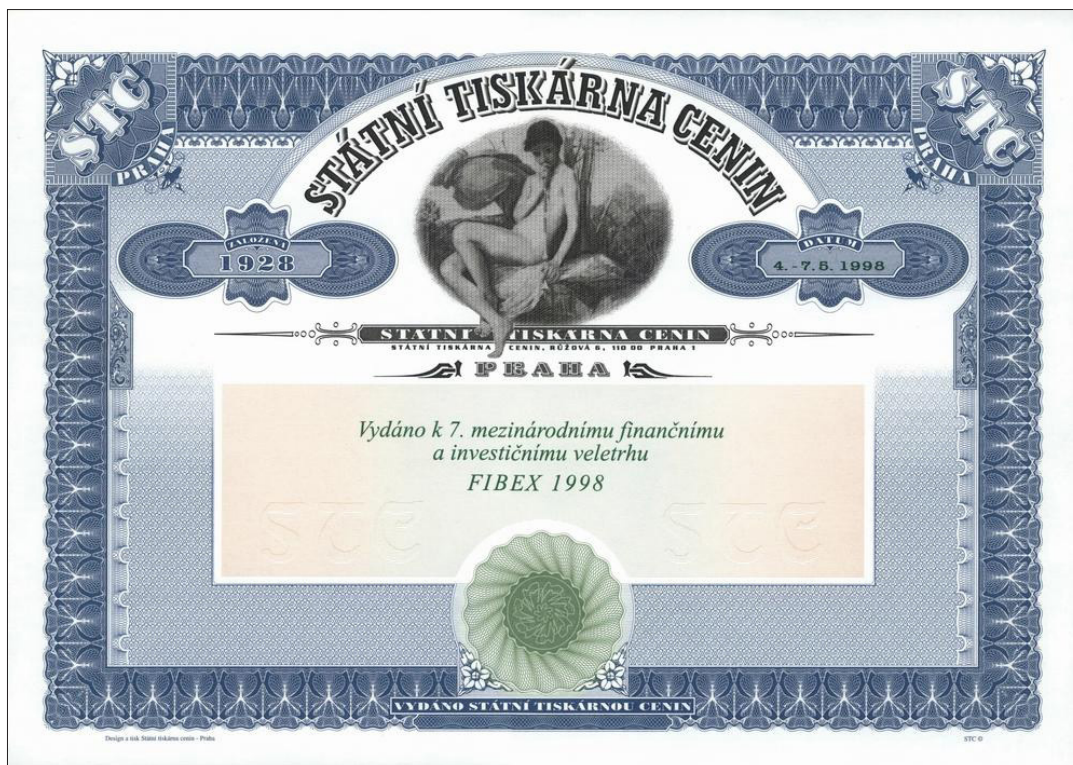
*VSP, 1997 - Security paper with watermark. Gravure printing - engraving, offset printing*



*VSP, 1997 - Security paper with watermark. Gravure printing - engraving, offset printing*



*STC, 1998 - Plain paper without watermark. Gravure printing - engraving, offset printing.*



The article on American Bank Note Demonstration Stamps in last quarter's Journal spurred a lot of interest and brought additional material into the spotlight, mainly courtesy of **Paul Melnick's** collection. This prompted a follow-up story to present the new material and show variations of the demonstration stamps previously exhibited.

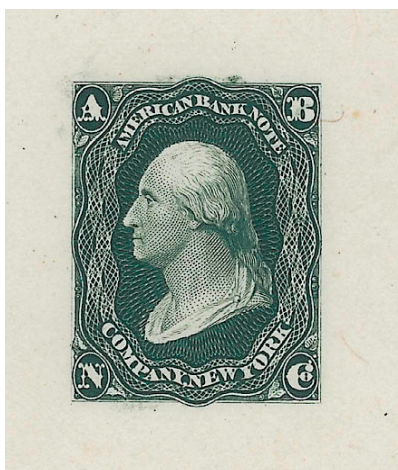
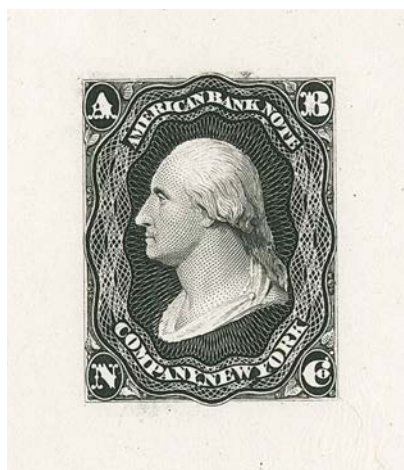
Previously unknown to us, a George Washington design, perhaps the earliest of ABNC's demonstration stamps, first came to our attention via Paul Melnick. However, all examples shown here are courtesy of the Siegel Auction Galleries Archives, which provided high-res scans of several varieties and color proofs.

The proofs shown in Figures 1-4, feature a portrait of George Washington within a wavy geometric lathework frame and A-B-N-Co in ovals at the corners. Text reading "American Bank Note Company, New York" undulates within the borders of the wavy frame. The Washington



Figure 1. (above) Block of four in green ink.

Figures 2-4. (below) Black, teal, and orange varieties.



portrait appears to match one attributed to Danforth, Bald & Co., which in 1858 would merge with other companies to form ABNC. The portrait is listed as Essay 11-E11 in the Scott catalog. The stamp design is an impressive example of the intricate engraving work of ABNC at the time.

Another essay (Figure 6) is an adapted version of the demonstration stamp. It is a 5¢ black die essay (67-E6) on India mounted to card. It was prepared as a model for the 1861 series contract.

Figure 5.  
Washington  
demo stamp,  
minus company  
title and initials



The “12½ Cents” label was probably taken from previous work for the Canadian government. Philatelists will notice a strong resemblance to Scott #65, the 3¢ definitive postage stamp. However, ABNC’s design was not selected for the 1861 series, which was printed by competitor National Bank Note Co. Nonetheless, it remained a strong example of ABNC’s abilities in postage stamp production.

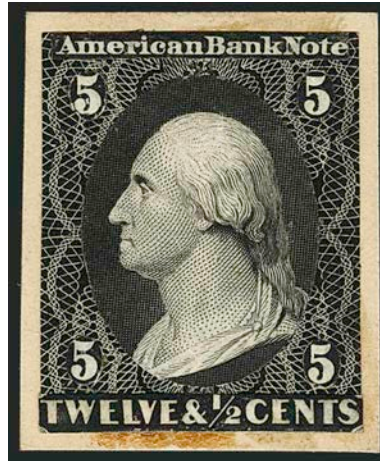


Figure 6.

Figure 7.



A terrific discovery is a booklet featuring the “Screaming Eagle” stamp, highlighted in the last issue of the Journal. The booklet version, shown in Figure 7, is gummed, rouletted, and printed in blue ink with an overprint in red, reading “Samples (Not Negotiable) for Trial Only.”

The booklet illustrates how clients were to use these stamps to test the adhesion and placement of stamps on their products prior to using actual revenue stamps, thus avoiding unnecessary costs and wastage. These stamps provided an important customer service to ABNC’s clients, since revenue stamps were used on a wide variety of irregularly shaped products, like liquor and medicine bottles, and to seal boxes, such as those containing playing cards, cigars, or cigarettes.

One of the suppositions regarding the small size of some demonstration stamps was that ABNC targeted its promotional efforts to clients whose products required the collection of tax revenues. The specimen brochure for decalcomania stamps, shown in Figures 8 and 9, confirms this notion. The brochure focuses on the security provided and production controls proffered by ABNC revenue stamp products. It also attests to ABNC’s desire to promote its engraving abilities and intricate design work. Stapled to the brochure is an imperforate Taj Mahal specimen stamp within a plastic pouch. Below the stamp, it reads:

“Please examine the attached specimen stamp under a magnifying glass and observe the precision and delicacy of the hand engraved lines. No other printing process

**\* WHAT DOES "AMERICAN BANK NOTE PROTECTION" MEAN?**

**IT MEANS —**

- Extreme care in the selection and training of employees,
- A thorough, practical system of work inventory and control; of counting, recounting and checking so that every sheet of paper issued is at all times accounted for,
- All stamp papers manufactured to our rigid specifications and for our exclusive use,
- All printing inks manufactured in our own Plant to our special formulas,
- Vault facilities for safekeeping of all dies, rolls and plates; even rigid accounting for all blank steel from which these are made,
- Adequate vaults for proper storage of all finished work held for future deliveries,
- A modern fireproof Plant carefully guarded night and day,
- A Plant to which public access is prohibited except upon written authority by an executive officer of the Company and then strictly on condition that the visitor must always be accompanied by a Company representative,
- A Plant where employees of one department do not have unauthorized access to the other departments.

THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THESE UNEXCELLED SAFEGUARDS ASSURE YOU OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF SECURITY PROTECTION OBTAINABLE.

GENERAL OFFICES  
70 BROAD STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

PLANTS  
NEW YORK PHILADELPHIA CHICAGO BOSTON

SALES OFFICES AND REPRESENTATIVES  
CLEVELAND SAN FRANCISCO LOS ANGELES  
DETROIT DALLAS

AND OTHER PRINCIPAL CITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

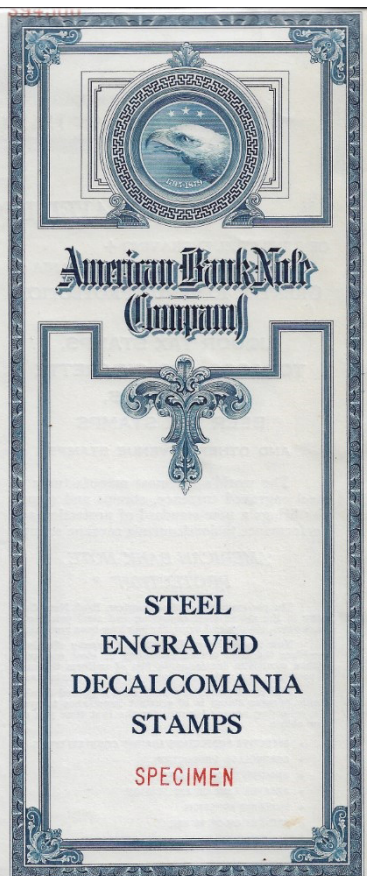


Figure 8 and 9. The cover and interior of ABNC decalcomania promotional brochure.

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY

presents

**STEEL ENGRAVED DECALCOMANIA STAMPS**

GENUINE STEEL ENGRAVING +  
DECALCOMANIA =  
**GREATER REVENUE PROTECTION**  
for  
**LIQUOR TAX STAMPS,  
TOBACCO AND CIGARETTE  
TAX STAMPS,  
BEER TAX STAMPS  
AND OTHER REVENUE STAMPS**

The world's foremost manufacturer of steel engraved currency, stamps and securities brings a new standard of protection and performance to decalcomania revenue stamps.

**"AMERICAN BANK NOTE PROTECTION" \***

The pre-eminence of the American Bank Note Company in the art of steel engraving and steel printing of bank notes, stamps and securities has long been recognized.

Now the American Bank Note Company effectively combines the time proved protection of steel engraving with a composite decalcomania film of uniform thickness to produce a new and vastly improved decalcomania stamp.

This development of a fully steel engraved decalcomania revenue stamp is of greatest importance to every tax collecting agency because for the first time you can now obtain

- EFFECTIVE PROTECTION AGAINST COUNTERFEITING
- CONTROLLED PRODUCTION
- UNIFORMITY OF MATERIAL
- GREATER EASE OF APPLICATION
- SUPERIOR ADHESION
- PREVENTION OF RE-USE

**RESULTING IN INCREASED REVENUE.**

PLEASE EXAMINE THE ATTACHED SPECIMEN STAMP UNDER A MAGNIFYING GLASS AND OBSERVE THE PRECISION AND DELICACY OF THE HAND ENGRAVED LINES. NO OTHER PRINTING PROCESS PERMITS INCORPORATION OF THE SAME AMOUNT OF PROTECTIVE WORKMANSHIP IN THE SMALL AREA OF A STAMP.

Hand steel engraving and steel plate printing are the accepted standards for protective printing of currency, revenue stamps, postage stamps, bonds and stock certificates.

The United States government and the other leading governments of the world rely upon steel engraving to protect their issues of bank notes, stamps and securities.

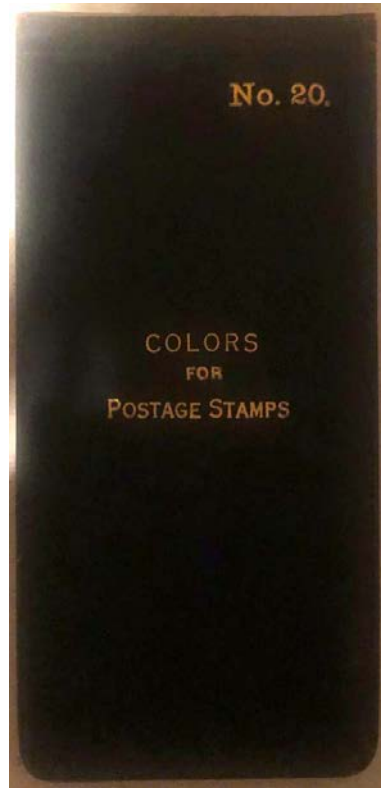
Now the various State and City governments can obtain **steel engraved decalcomania revenue stamps** prepared by the same protective process and of the highest quality traditionally associated with the American Bank Note Company.

THE IMPRINT OF THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY HAS FOR OVER A CENTURY SYMBOLIZED INTEGRITY AND ACCURACY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ALL TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

permits incorporation of the same amount of protective workmanship in the small area of a stamp.”

Several other examples of the embossed “Liberty with Phrygian Cap” design, also featured last issue, have come to light. These are shown in Figure 10. The presence of these designs on both laid paper and woven paper reaffirms ABNC’s determination to publicize its abilities to produce high-quality postal stationery.

An idea of how ABNC presented the many ink varieties available to clients can be seen in Figure 11. The picture shows the cover of a



color chart booklet and an example of a page sheet it contained. These booklets would typically contain from 12 to 25 charts displaying ink samples of different colors within a single type of ink classification. A salesman might carry several booklets, each with a different type of ink exhibiting specific characteristics, that were appropriate for the client’s needs.

*Figure 11. Cover and sample page of ABNC color chart.*



*Figure 10.*

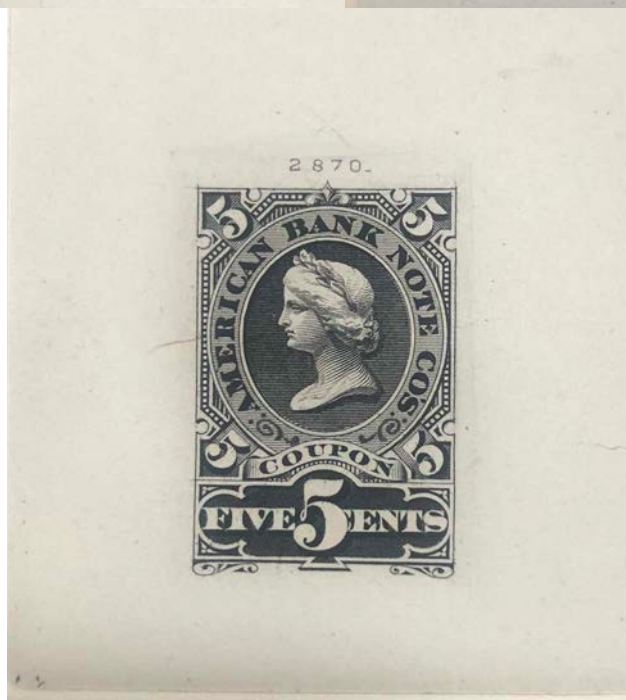
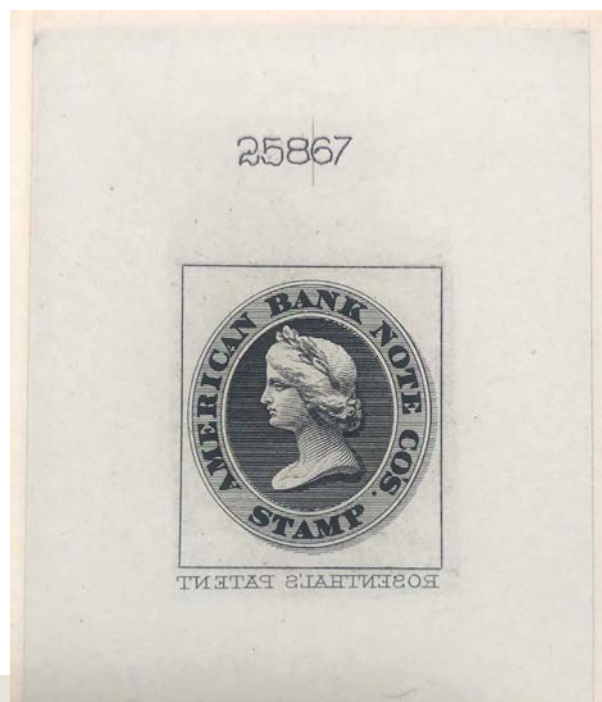
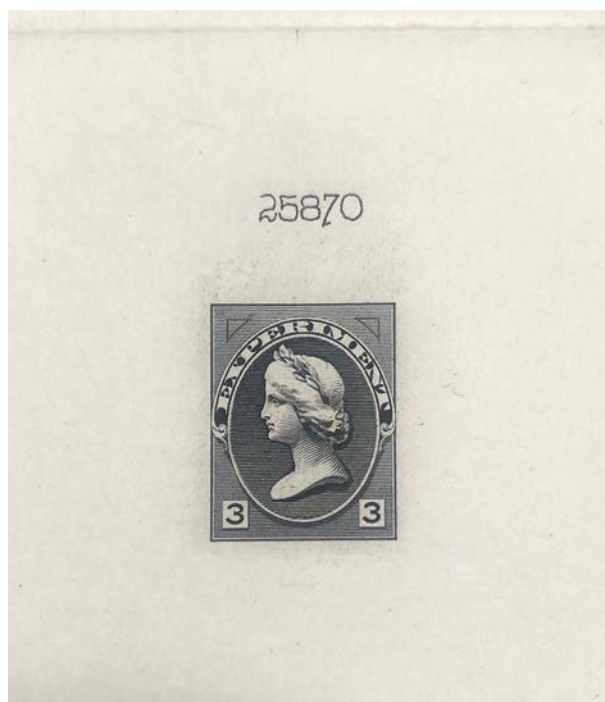


A significant number of Liberty Head demonstration stamps were shown in the original article, but several plate proofs on card also deserve to be shown. These are presented in Figures 12-14. A rare full sheet of imperforate Liberty Head coupon specimen stamps is also shown as Figure 15.

There are undoubtedly other color varieties and printing formats produced by the American Bank

Note Company for its demonstration stamps. Perhaps there are also additional design types. Seeing these items is always welcome and any additional information collectors can provide would be beneficial in understanding ABNC's production and promotional methods.

Next issue we will tackle the demonstration stamps of other North American security printers.



*Figure 12-14. Three die proof varieties of the Liberty Head demo stamp, including a "Rosenthal's Patent" variation in an oval*



*Figure 15. Full sheet of Liberty Head coupon variety of demonstration stamp*



### **ASDA SOUVENIR CARD INFORMATION NEEDED**

Member **Hans Weber** has been compiling information for the ASDA card category and has uncovered a large number of yet unlisted cards. He is seeking details on three mystery cards from 2009-10:

- Midyear 2009 card, with possible **Lincoln** theme
- 2009 or 2010, with theme of **Flags of Our Nations**
- Midyear 2010, with theme of **Cowboys**

Scans or further information would be greatly appreciated. Contact Hans by email at [hhweber@att.net](mailto:hhweber@att.net).

## 40th ANNIVERSARY CARD PROJECT

Greg Alexander

The 40th anniversary of the Souvenir Card Collectors Society certainly seems like a good reason for celebration! A good many hobby organizations never reach this milestone, so we would like to do something special to commemorate the occasion.

In 1986, on our 5th anniversary, the SCCS commissioned our first official card, N-1, the Statue of Liberty card (see page 2), printed by the American Bank Note Company. At the 10-year mark, we went back to ABNC for a public souvenir card, SO-77, featuring an ornate Roman numeral 10 (below). We also started our annual card tradition that year with an eagle card printed by **Mike Bean**, N-2. For our 30th anniversary, Mike printed another annual card, N-22, featuring three eagles.

This year we'd like to create another special card, which Mike has agreed to print for us. Although American Bank Note is out of the souvenir card business, a vast number of their original printing plates are now in the hands of collectors. Some of those collectors are SCCS members, who have agreed to allow us

to print from these plates. **Paul Melnick** is graciously lending us a plate showing a printer and his assistant at a spider press (shown in purple), which was used on a number of early Union forerunners. Life member **John Jackson** has a significant collection of printing plates that he will allow us to use. We are hoping there may be other members who will step forward with further options for printing plates.



This will be a larger card than our typical 8" x 6" annual card, in order to accommodate more vignettes. Ideally, we would like to include both philatelic and numismatic elements. At present we have no access to plates depicting stamps, so

please consider this need. We also plan to use multiple ink colors. This will increase the cost and time required for printing, but we are looking at ways to offset this.

All paid-up members will, of course, receive one of these annual cards at no cost, as a benefit of membership. We also plan to print an additional number of cards for sale to the public, as a fundraiser for the Society. But more importantly we hope that it can be used as leverage to attract new members. If the card is offered in the \$15-20 range, potential members might be willing to pony up a few more dollars to join the SCCS and get the card for free. This is why eye-appeal and wide interest to a broad variety of collectors is critical.

Under the hope that the ANA and APS conventions proceed as planned for August (see page 27), we would like to release the 40th anniversary card at that time, for sale at the Rosemont show(s). There is not likely to be a better opportunity to give the SCCS some visibility, increase recruitment, and expose more collectors to the fine art of security engraving.

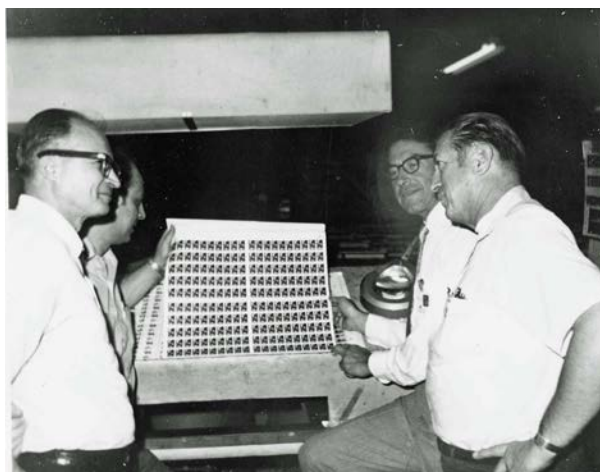


## BUREAU BIO: SEYMOUR BERNETT

Howard Burnett

*[Editor's Note: One of our newest members, Howard Burnett, submitted this memory of his father, who spent more than 35 years printing currency and stamps for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.]*

Seymour Bennett began his career at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in 1941 as an apprentice plate printer. He served his apprenticeship in the currency division where he worked with the Miehle and Hoe presses. During this period, the division was producing Emergency Hawaii Currency, gold and silver certificates, and U.S. Notes. Mr. Bennett left to serve in the Army from 1943 to 1945 in the European Theater, ending the war in Austria.



*Seymour Bennett (left, in glasses) meets with other Bureau employees to inspect a press sheet of Scott #1414, one of the 1970 Christmas stamps.*

After returning to the States, he went back to the Bureau and finished his apprenticeship. He was promoted to journeyman and took part in the mechanization of the flat plate printing presses, which included the installation of automatic sheet feeders, plate polishers, and sheet take-off assemblies. His knowledge and experience with the presses and mechanization resulted in his promotion to foreman in 1952. Later he transferred to the stamp division where he managed the Cottrell section; the Cottrell web-fed rotary presses printed all the single-color stamps for the Post Office Department, later the USPS.



*Seymour Bennett (left) with Plate Printer Foreman Jim Purnell, standing in front of one of the Cottrell presses in 1985 when the Bureau ceremoniously locked up the Cottrell pressrooms as the section was closed down.*

During his tenure at Cottrell, it was the first section in the Bureau to develop and test the application of phosphor to stamps. Mr. Bennett was a key to the success of the phosphor project which took three years of testing and improvements related to inks, trays, application, drying, and printing. [Note: Phosphor tagging (UV) on postage stamps enabled “electric eye” automated machine cancellation, still in use today.] He also supervised the Cottrell press transition from ungummed paper to pre-gummed paper.

Mr. Bennett held a temporary assignment as Acting Asst. Superintendent of the Examining Division after which he returned to the Cottrell section. In 1972, he was recognized by the Secretary of the Treasury for outstanding personal leadership in promoting employee participation in the Incentive Award Program to increase efficiency and reduce safety hazards.

Mr. Bennett retired in 1980 but was asked by the Bureau in 1985 to “ceremoniously” put locks on the press room doors when the Cottrell section was permanently closed. Mr. Bennett was a lifelong member of the IPPDS&E Union in Local 2 and served one year as secretary. Mr. Bennett died in December 2014, a day after Marianne, his wife of 62 years, passed away.



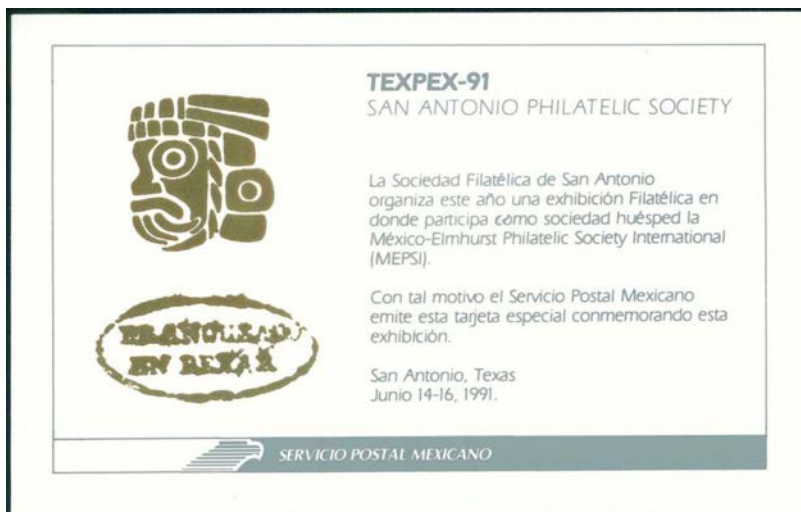
## ADDITIONAL CARDS FROM MEXICO

Greg Alexander

In the last SC Journal (4Q 2020), we debuted the first known example of a souvenir card from Mexico, issued by the Mexican Postal Service (now Correos de Mexico) for the 1990 Stamp World London show. The Cataloging Committee gave it a place in the SCCS Numbering System as CM-1.

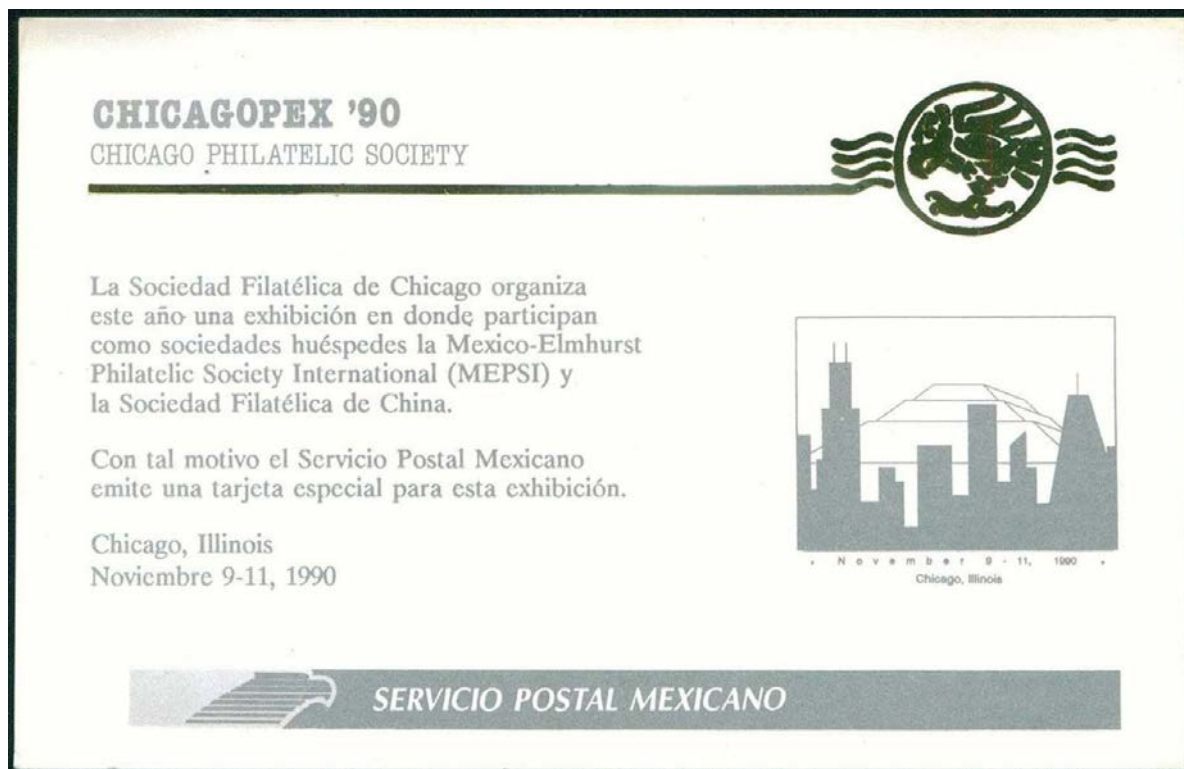
It seemed likely that further cards from the MPS existed, so I reached out to the Mexico philatelic community and it didn't take long to find others. To my surprise (though I probably shouldn't have been) a second category of card came to light, which will require separate catalog numbers.

With the help of Fernando Perez-Maldonado and Dr. James Mazepa, both long-time members of the Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society, International (MEPSI), we found two more MPS cards. These were both issued in conjunction with MEPSI annual meetings at regional stamp shows. Chicagopex '90 and



TEXPEX-91 both saw cards issued for their respective events. The cards include text in Spanish with thematic illustrations printed in gold.

Another surprise was the size of these cards. I assumed they would be similar to USPS cards, but had nothing for comparison, since CM-1 was only found through digital images. The other two cards are roughly post-card sized, though they weren't designed as such.



They both measure 6.25" x 4" (15.5cm x 10cm). The Chicagopex card is illustrated at actual size.

The Chicagopex '90 was also issued in specimen form. "MUESTRA" (Spanish for Sample) was printed in red block letters across the front. The backs of all specimens received the special show cancellation and were hand-signed by Irene Martinez, who designed the card for the MPS. Around 25 of these were made and given to local committee members and dignitaries. The rest remainder were sold as a fundraiser, in support of the local MEPSI chapter. No details are known on how many of the standard cards were printed or sold.

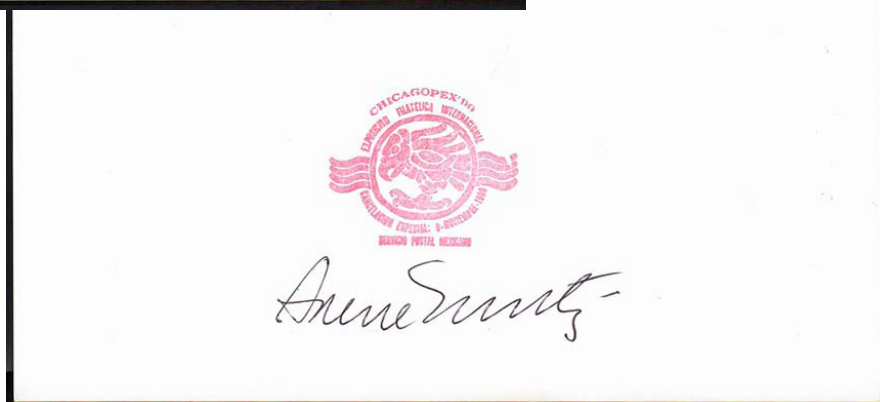
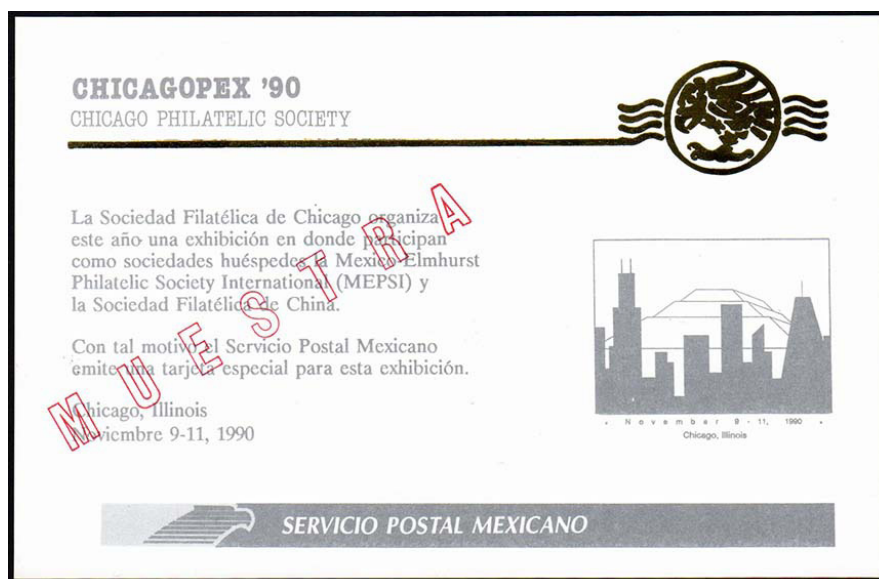
The second type of card was put out by Talleres de Impresión de Estampillas y Valores (State Printer of Stamps and Securities), better known as TIEV. This is the Mexican counterpart to the Bureau of Engraving & Printing. TIEV actually issued the earliest known Mexican souvenir card in 1985 for MEXFIL 85, five

years before the MPS London 90 card. As a North American government entity, TIEV meets the criteria for including their cards in the SCCS catalog.

TIEV apparently preferred to use a horizontal format for most of their souvenir cards, which were issued folded in half and distributed in envelopes. Fernando recalls that all these cards were were giveaway items at the TIEV show booths. Folded, most measure 9.25" x 4.25" (23.5cm x 21cm).

So far, six TIEV cards meet the requirements to be listed by the SCCS: MEXFIL 85, AMEXFIL 90, TEXPEX 91, Guadalajara 92, and two cards from Pacific 97. The Pacific 97 cards are of particular interest, as they appear to be the only cards where the stamps were intaglio printed. These cards are smaller than the earlier horizontal issues and are very similar to die proof cards that TIEV handed out at other shows.

Dr. Mazepa believes there are other cards; I would appreciate scans of anything else our members might be aware of. For the time being, the Cataloging Committee will hold off assigning catalog numbers for these cards in hopes that others may be discovered.



*Front/back covers of the TIEV souvenir card for MEXFIL 85, currently the earliest known card from Mexico.*



*Interior (open) of the TIEV card for MEXFIL 85, showing Mexico Scott #1382-1384.*



*Unfolded TIEV card from AMEXFIL 90, showing cover (left) and interior (above), featuring Mexico Scott #1642.*



*Unfolded TIEV card from Guadalajara 92, showing cover (right) and interior (above), with show cancel. The card features the frames and finished examples of Mexico Scott #C121 (40 centavos) and #772.*

EXPOSICION FILATELICA NACIONAL  
1992

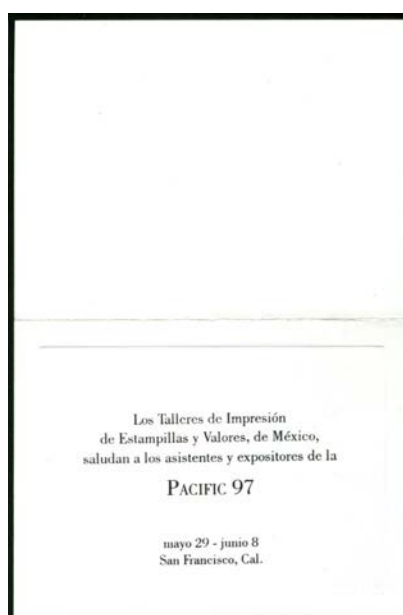
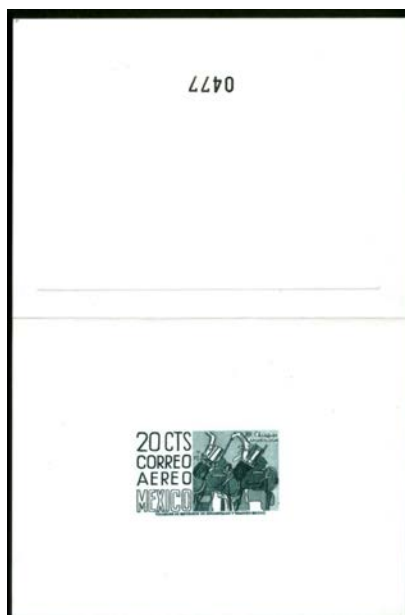
Guadalajara, Jal.  
8 febrero / 10. marzo



The folded cover of TIEV card from TEXPEX 91, shows high-value Mexican stamps (l-r:) Scott #C61, #704, and #C60. Inside, the card features postal marking from Texas during Mexican administration, 1821-36.



Two smaller TIEV cards for Pacific 97 feature intaglio covers with Mexican airmail stamps in alternate colors: Scott #C220C in brown and #C220K in green. Inside text is the same on both cards.



As a small hobby organization, we rely on key individuals to keep things running. When **Bill Kriebel**, our do-it-all volunteer, was knocked out of commission about a year ago, it became apparent that the core group of members we call upon for help needs to be expanded. So I'm extending an appeal for some specific assistance on various projects. Some work can be done at home, some can't.

This summer, if COVID-19 continues to abate, both the American Numismatic Association and the American Philatelic Society are planning to hold conventions at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois. The ANA's World's Fair of Money is set for August 10-14 and the APS Great American Stamp Show will run from August 12-15, though in different exhibit halls. This means the shows will overlap on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

This is an ideal chance to put the SCCS in the spotlight during our milestone year. However, we have never before had to staff tables simultaneously at two major shows. **We need members to take a shift or two**, chat with collectors, sell our 2021 souvenir card, and hopefully encourage new members to join us. I realize it's still early to make solid plans, but if you end up going, please contact **Steve Patrick** and offer a few hours of your time.

**UN Card Cataloger:** After about three years of work we are getting close to completing image galleries for all the categories of souvenir cards (there are more than 25 now). The last remaining challenge is the United Nations cards. We need someone, preferably who collects UN cards, to scan images of all or most of the cards and create a spreadsheet that we can use to build a gallery for collectors to reference. I have walked several members through this process already, which they found interesting and fulfilling. Time is not a concern; you can work at your own speed.

**Website Assistant:** Our webmaster took on a bigger job than he imagined when we first launched the SCCS website in 2018. Now, we really need someone with skills in web design to serve as a back-up for updating information on the site, adding images, and fixing the occasional glitch. This is a tough job to

find members with the knowledge needed, but if you know of someone who might be interested, please send me your suggestions.

**Auction Organizer:** There is still an interest among members to hold regular souvenir card auctions, which were published quarterly in the Journal. With **Bill Kriebel** currently out of the picture, we could use someone with good organizational skills who would like to take on this project. There is a lot of mailing, tracking of bids, and coordination with consigners. Holding less frequent auctions is a possibility. Bill can provide more information to any member who would like to learn more about what is involved.

**SCJ Back Issue Scanning:** One of the big projects we hoped to eventually take on was digitizing all 40 years of the Souvenir Card Journal. These would be available for password-protected downloads to all members. Presently, only the last five years have been posted on the website. Work could be done using a flatbed scanner, but a book scanning set-up would be more efficient. I can supply back issues for scanning and discuss ideas with interested members. We have had an offer from the Newman Numismatic Portal to do the scanning for us, however, the scans would then be publicly available and we would lose the members-only benefit. If no one steps forward for this project, we may consider this opportunity.

**Journal Contributor:** I am always grateful to have quality articles to publish in the SCJ — especially when I don't have to write them. We have many members with a great depth of knowledge and lots of interesting items in their collections. Why not take a little time to show-and-tell with your fellow collectors and share some of your favorites?

I've been very grateful for help in the past year from **Hans Weber, Don Epp, Roland Rollins, Ron Betz, Fred Geissler, Rod Charlton, Larry Leyser, Art Benjamin, Steve Patrick, Mark Trout, Lee Quast, Bill Kriebel, and John Shue**, all of whom contributed time writing, scanning, coding, proofreading, and organizing on behalf of the Society. It would be great to see more members show an active interest in our hobby.



## MEMBERS' EXCHANGE

## Membership

**Wanted:** Your free ad here! Contact the Interim Editor at **SCCS1981@yahoo.com** or by snail mail (see Board of Directors, page 1). Ads will be repeated four times, unless you request otherwise. There is NO charge.

3

**Want to Trade, Buy or Sell:** Assorted ASDA issued souvenir cards mint, SC and FDI from 1974 to 2010. Contact: **hhweber@att.net** or **Hans Weber, 6555 Rycroft Dr., Riverside, CA 92506-5314, 951-318-8684.**

C

**For Sale:** Washington Chapter One is offering computer-generated color cards. Send a SASE (55¢) for the full-color list. **John Shue, P.O. Box 35, Brogue, PA 17309-0035**

C

**BUYING** selected BEP, ABNCo., USPS, Forerunner, and other souvenir cards. Please see the "Buying List"

on my website [www.kenbarr.com](http://www.kenbarr.com) or write for a hard copy. (Selling, too!) **Ken Barr, P.O. Box 32541, San Jose, CA 95152.**

C

**For Sale:** SO-164 Gross Gallery Opening Souvenir Card, mint, \$4 ppd. Send Check to Lyle Boardman, 3916 Wyldwood Road, Austin, TX 78739-3005. For multiple copies contact **LCB1941@att.net**

C

**Wanted:** Philatelic Truck material wanted by exhibitor. Also: NPM Card (SO-164) signed and/or cancelled. Please contact: **Gregg A. Hopkins, Sr. at 602-954-8175** or **In1stPlace@cox.net**

**Wanted** Trade or Buy: Assorted BEP, Veterans, SO, USPS, Forerunner, and other souvenir or non-souvenir cards — Duck, Private, etc. Please contact **Fredemw@gmail.com** or **Fred Geissler, 11681 Kahns Road, Manassas, VA 20112.**

## Souvenir Cards Available from Issuing Organizations

At present, major APS and ANA shows are tentatively planned for 2021, which may mean some upcoming souvenir cards, but nothing has been announced yet. Many generic cards and back issues from previous events remain available at original prices:

### American Philatelic Society

[stamps.org](http://stamps.org); search for "Souvenir"

**Available back issues:** Most cards issued from 2011 to 2017 (APS-44 to 57), including show-cancelled and sets, from \$2 to \$8.

### Ameri-Show Cards

[www.souvenircards.org/gallery/Q/Q.html](http://www.souvenircards.org/gallery/Q/Q.html)

**Available back issues:** 30+ intaglio card varieties are still available from past shows at original prices, most \$5 to \$10. Downloadable list on SCCS website.

### Bureau of Engraving and Printing / U.S. Mint

[catalog.usmint.gov/shop/engraved-prints](http://catalog.usmint.gov/shop/engraved-prints)

**Available back issues:** B-245 (MLK print) \$5/per card; B-279 (Cherry Blossom print) \$9.95/per card; B-320/324 (Defenders of Democracy) \$85/set of 5; \$20/per card. Many cards remain out of stock while BEP focuses on currency production.

### Christmas Seal & Charity Stamp Society

[www.seal-society.org/literature](http://www.seal-society.org/literature)

**Available back issues:** More than a dozen card varieties from past shows, ranging from \$2 to \$20. August 2020 APS cards are available for \$10/set, \$3.25 shipping at [https://bit.ly/2020\\_CS](https://bit.ly/2020_CS).

### Duck Stamp Cards

2020 duck stamp cards are now available online. Annual stamps and cards can be found at [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com); Artist commemorative cards are at [https://bit.ly/2020\\_Duck\\_Card](https://bit.ly/2020_Duck_Card).

### NAPEX

[www.napex.org/souvenirs/](http://www.napex.org/souvenirs/)

**Available back issues:** Several dozen card varieties from past philatelic shows, many intaglio and/or show cancelled, from \$5 to \$8 per card. 2019 cards remain available; 2020 cards were not issued.

### SCCS Washington Chapter #1

John Shue, P.O. Box 35, Brogue, PA 17309

**Available back issues:** Several dozen card varieties from past philatelic shows; early cards intaglio, recent cards computer printed. Send large SASE for list.

## BEP EMPLOYEE MAGAZINE DISCOVERY

Greg Alexander

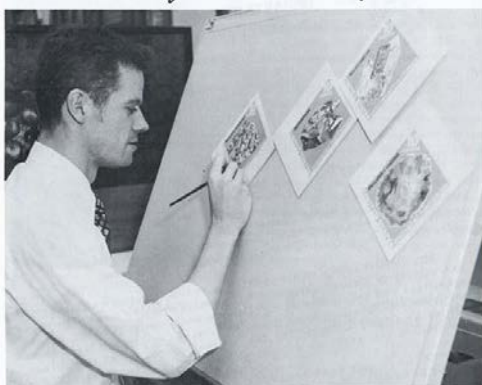
Howard Burnett, mentioned on page 21, was kind enough to share a copy of a magazine that I was previously unaware of. "The Bureau" was an in-house newsletter for employees of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It appears to have first been issued in 1967, though it's not apparent how frequently the newsletter came out — possibly quarterly.

This particular copy came out in Summer 1974 and, as you'd expect, the content mostly revolves around employee activities: retirements, promotions, pension information, a column by BEP Director James Conlon, and even a sports roundup of company softball and bowling leagues! But there is also an interesting article on the design production of the Mineral Heritage postage stamp, Scott #1538-41. Until 2005, stamp production was a significant part of the Bureau's business.

I'm sure more issues of "The Bureau" exist, with information of historical interest to SCCS members. If anyone can provide scans or supply copies, please contact me at [SCCS1981@yahoo.com](mailto:SCCS1981@yahoo.com).



### From Design to Delivery . . .



Many months and even years pass from the time a postage stamp is designed and approved until it is produced and shipped for first day sales, and many people are involved in each stage of the intricate operations. Predominant on the cover of this newsletter is a diamond block of four Mineral Heritage Commemorative Stamps designed in 1972 and issued in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 12, 1974. These stamps illustrate our Nation's Mineral Heritage with four sparkling mineral specimens in their natural form. They call attention to the contributions minerals have made to making the U. S. a leader among nations, and its people the most advantaged on earth.

The United States Postal Service had been urged for some time to issue a Mineral Heritage commemorative postage stamp in recognition of our Nation's mineral and gem resources. Advocates included the First Lady, Members of Congress, and other prominent Americans. Other nations had issued stamps publicizing their natural resources, but our problem was the difficulty in finding suitable designs and art work for this complex subject matter.

It was with confidence in this Bureau's design staff that the Director asked them to try where

others had failed. In response, Mr. Leonard Buckley created the beautiful and imaginative designs that were approved by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and the Postmaster General, and have become the United States Mineral Heritage Commemorative Stamps.

Designing a new stamp is the first step in its production. Working up possible design approaches, Leonard presented sketches to Dr. Paul Desautels, Curator in the Mineralogy Division of the Smithsonian Institution, and Mrs. Milton Turner, Chairwoman of the Commemorative Stamp Committee. With valuable assistance from the Smithsonian he selected 12 mineral specimens native to the United States, and prepared art work for two models, each showing four stamps. The new diamond format was selected when these were presented to the Committee and the Postmaster General. By rotating the block of stamps 45 degrees, Leonard achieved a near diamond shape for the individual stamps and for the set of four, which represents an entirely different treatment of the classic square format. The stamps were modeled by Leonard Buckley and Frank Wozick; the vignettes were engraved by Arthur W. Dintaman, Edward P. Archer, Joseph S. Creamer, Jr., and Thomas R. Hipschen; and the lettering was engraved by Albert

Sauvador. The stamps were printed in 8 colors (13 offset and 3 Giori). Production statistics show that 1,027,941 sheets of these stamps were printed, and that 151,536,000 stamps (face value of \$15,153,600.00) have been shipped to Post Offices in all States.

Leonard Buckley attended the ceremonies in Lincoln, Nebraska, on June 12 when the stamp was issued in conjunction with the National Gem and Mineral show. He was kept busy discussing the stamp and autographing First Day Covers like the one shown below.



Stamp collecting is big business. Since 1847 postage stamps have been made in the U.S.A. Until 1894 the Post Office contracted with private firms for their printing, then the Bureau of Engraving and Printing took over the job. In 1895 the Bureau reported that it had delivered a total of 2 billion stamps to post offices. Currently, this year's orders processed by the Bureau will be close to 30 billion stamps. Last year's deliveries amounted to 26.2 billion. That shows that STAMPS while small individually, amount to big business.

In these days of inflation it is amazing how far a 10¢ stamp will go. In addition to their use for postage purposes, the current demand for stamps from collectors who never use them for postage is astounding in volume of sales.

Future issues of the newsletter will contain other features of philatelic and numismatic interest to employees.

### KEEP UP THE SPIRIT OF '76

1976 is the year of the bicentennial celebrations and preparations are being made throughout the land. The spirit of thankfulness in America has changed considerably in the past 200 years in spite of all sorts of amazing things to be thankful for. The general belief is that we constantly deserve more than whatever we already have. Voicing gratitude is rare. Although we have progressed technologically to an astounding degree, we have stood still in other important matters.

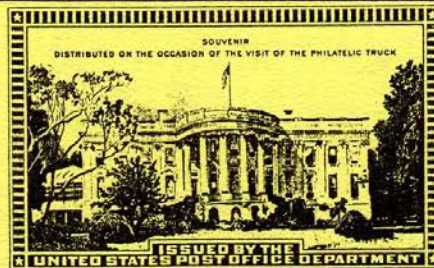
Early Americans signed their wars with name and date. This seems a quaint custom to us now.

Men were conscious of their position in the new nation and did not want to remain anonymous. When you create for posterity you are more apt to be excellent and then are proud to make proper record of your creation. So, do to do an excellent job in whatever you do, and place your signature thereon for present and future recognition. Our American Heritage is independence and total respect for the individual. Never take it for granted or ignore it. "He that loses wealth loses much; he that loses friends loses more; but he that loses spirit loses all." Revive and Keep the Spirit of '76 in 1976.

# THE SOUVENIR CARD JOURNAL

The official organ of the Souvenir Card Collectors Society

SPRING



1981

## \*\*\*\*\* INAUGURAL ISSUE \*\*\*\*\*

The Souvenir Card Collectors Society is pleased to announce that it has over 200 charter members. The SCCS has been formed in order to promote the souvenir card hobby, to disseminate souvenir card information, and to provide a central source for souvenir card sale and trade. Our publication, THE SOUVENIR CARD JOURNAL (SCJ), will be published four times a year. Due to the high costs of printing and postage, we are not able to send out membership cards at this time. This, however, may be reconsidered at a later date. Charter members may find their names, addresses, collecting interests, and SCCS numbers in the Charter Membership Directory. Each issue of the SCJ will contain directory updates for new members.

Future issues of the SCJ will continue to provide free advertising for members. This consists of one free ad per member per issue. Due to the large number of members and the limitation of printing space, collector member ads must be 25 words or less. Dealer member ads must now be no longer than 1/3 of a standard 8 1/2 X 11" page. Additional ads may be purchased by members only at \$2 for a 25 word ad or at \$5 for a 1/3 page ad. The editor will type up collector member ads only. Dealers must do the lay outs for their own ads. Please take advantage of the free ads. The SCJ could become the center of souvenir card sale and trade if our members would participate. In addition, members are encouraged to contribute articles to the SCCS for publication in the SCJ. All articles must be neat, typed and ready for printing. Good photocopy illustrations are appreciated. Articles are needed in all areas and especially on numismatic, privately issued, and foreign souvenir cards.

The SCJ will have articles on all facets of souvenir card collecting. Curt Radford, the editor, shows us that "forerunner" souvenir cards can be traced all the way back to the 1860's in his column FORERUNNER FORUM. A leading souvenir card dealer analyses the market and gives the latest scoop on upcoming cards in REVIEWING THE MARKET by Herb Meisels. Prominent UN dealer, Mike Armus demonstrates the ins and outs of UN card collecting in his column, SURVEYING THE UN SCENE. Don Hitchcox dazzles us with his vast collection of souvenir card errors and varieties in SOUVENIR CARD ERRATUM. And articles on numismatic, private and foreign cards are in the works.

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